

1927

From coquina beach to coral strand : a sketch of the progress of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. in Florida from 1824 to 1927

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FROM
Coquina Beach
TO
Coral Strand

A Sketch of the Progress of the
Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.
In Florida from 1824 to 1927.

PREPARED BY THE STATED CLERK
ALBERT W. PIERCE

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1927 South Florida

A Sketch of the Progress
of the
Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.
in
Florida from 1824 to 1927

Foreword

This paper is the fulfilment of a promise made to Rev. Edward G. McKinley, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida, U. S. A., that, while material was accessible, an attempt be made to record the history of the work of the Church in Florida.

Mr. McKinley made some notes in preparation for revising and enlarging the excellent "Historical Notes of the Presbytery of East Florida," 1896, prepared by Rev. J. K. Wight. But as he found he could not complete the task he asked the present compiler to attempt it.

The sources are the written records of the Presbyteries themselves. These have been read attentively from the beginning. In addition to these, use has been made of information furnished by church officials, and the minutes of the General Assembly from 1893-1927. A series of reports and papers were left by Dr. Henry Keigwin, Synodical Evangelist, and these have been quoted.

At certain points help was found in the following pamphlets: Historical Notes of the Presbytery of East Florida, Rev. J. K. Wight, 1896. Notes on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church at Crescent City, 1908. The Church Bulletin on the Dedication of the First Presbyterian Church, Eustis, Florida, 1914. Centennial of the Presbyterian Church of St. Augustine, 1924. A Pamphlet prepared by Dr. W. W. Faris on the growth of the Church at Miami. Early Planting of the Presbyterian Church in West Florida, W. E. McIlwain, D. D., 1925.

Many faithful, devoted men have given of their lives to the Church in Florida. Nevertheless especial mention is made of the labors of Dr. Wm. McWhir, Dr. James Hair Potter, Dr. Henry Keigwin, Dr. William Wallace Faris, and Rev. Rees W. Edwards. The interest of the story and the copiousness of the records warranted the unfolding story centering around the plantings at St. Augustine, Eustis and Miami.

Following the sketch is a list of the churches at any time associated with the Florida work. It cannot be hoped that the accuracy striven after has been attained. The compiler has done what he could with the imperfect material available at this late date.

ALBERT W. PIERCE, Stated Clerk.

Historical Sketch

Although the sixteenth century saw attempts on the part of the Huguenots to seek religious liberty in the New World, a settlement at Rio de Janeiro made in 1558 by Nicholas Durand Villegaignon, was destroyed by attacks in 1560 and 1567 by Mem de Sa, a settlement made by Jean Ribaut in 1562 at Port Royal, S. C., failed; in 1564 Rene de Laudonniere established Fort Caroline at the mouth of the St. Johns River, which was destroyed in 1565 by Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

Religious liberty was not to be found under Spanish rule, and, although the neighboring colonies of Georgia and the Carolinas were protected in their Protestantism under British rule, the history of Protestantism in Florida seems to begin only with the transfer of that territory from Spain to the United States. The treaty with Spain, by which the Floridas were thus transferred, was signed in 1819, but only became effective in 1821, when President Monroe appointed General Andrew Jackson, military governor.

President Woodrow Wilson in his small volume "Division and Reunion" writes of this period, "Within the period of a little more than nine years, from 1812-1821, seven states were admitted to the Union; and by the latter date there were already eleven new states associated with the original thirteen in the conduct of the federal government. For fifteen years after the admission of Missouri, no other state was created, during those years the population was being compacted rather than extended."

This statement may help to understand the backward conditions of the new territory into which the Protestant churches were seeking entrance with the new terms of religious liberty. The first official census dealing with the territory was that of 1830, which showed that there were only 30,730 persons in Florida, and only 18,385 of these were white.

The small village of Wacca Pilatka, founded in 1816, was in 1822 named Jacksonville, in honor of the territorial governor, General Andrew Jackson. While in the same year the first territorial legislature met at Pensacola, and two years later in the new log-capital at Tallahassee.

It is uncertain whether the first Presbyterian church was started in the east or the west of Florida.

Dr. W. E. Mcllwain, in the pamphlet mentioned above states, "That the Scotch Highlanders, loyal to the 'Pretender' " after the disastrous battle of Culloden, 1746, were by "by King George II," pardoned on condition that they emigrate to the American plantations, after having taken the solemn oath of allegiance to the King. Therefore in 1746-7 great numbers of Highlanders with their families and the families of their friends removed to North Carolina and settled on the Cape Fear River. In the course of a few years large companies of industrious Highlanders joined their countrymen in Bladen County, N. C.

From these Highlanders, there went out large colonies and settled in Alabama, Florida and other states of the South and West. In the spring of 1820, Neill McLendon of Richmond County, N. C., a born pioneer, became restless in North Carolina and longed for a newer and better country. He with other Scotch settled around Euchee Valley, West Florida. No sooner had these Scotchmen gotten their families settled in rude homes and their family altars established then they began to plan to build a house of worship. Sometime after the church building was erected, on May 26, 1828, they met and organized the Euchee Valley Presbyterian Church.

Presbyterians began coming from the Carolinas and Georgia to Gadsden County, of which Quincy is the county-seat, in 1822, and soon after they were settled, they organized a church about four miles north of what is now Quincy, and called it Philadelphia, and in 1828, they erected a church building there."

Dr. McIlwain has given a romantic story of the origins of the Presbyterian churches in what was formerly West Florida. The dates at which the Euchee Valley and Philadelphia churches were started wait on further light. The General Assembly Minutes of 1826 record both names for the first time, and as vacant. Turning to East Florida the date of 1824 as that of the organization of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Augustine is the earliest date clearly established for a Presbyterian Church in Florida.

The name to be held in honor in this origin is that of the pioneer, Dr. William McWhir. Sprague's Annals of the Presbyterian Church, vol. 4, p. 441, gives a sketch of him, from which is made the following extract:

"Dr. McWhir, was born County Down, Ireland, September 9, 1759. He attended the University of Glasgow from 1778-1781, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Killileagh, September 26, 1783. He taught in Alexandria, Virginia, and in Liberty County, Georgia. In 1824 in consequence of a representation which had been made to him of the deplorable destitution of the means of grace in East Florida, he was induced to visit St. Augustine, with a view to make an effort for the promotion of the Redeemer's Kingdom. He accordingly constituted a Presbyterian Church, and ordained elders there, and, for several years after this, was engaged in collecting the requisite funds for building a church edifice, and in due time, he had the pleasure to see the object accomplished."

In the centennial celebrated at St. Augustine by the Synod of Florida, Dr. Barton B. Bigler gave an address on the founder of the church which he then served, in which he said:

Rev. Wm. McWhir, came to St. Augustine in June, 1824, and found a Presbyterian Society, which had been organized the year before through the efforts of Rev. Eleazar Lathrop, who had labored here for sometime.

On June 10, 1824, Dr. McWhir organized the First Presbyterian Church with thirteen members. He ordained two elders, and then went north and together with the Rev. Mr. Lathrop engaged in collecting funds for the erection of a house of worship."

At the same centennial Elder E. H. Reynolds gave an interesting and informing paper entitled "An Historical Sketch of Memorial Church, St. Augustine, Florida."

A part of this sketch here follows:

"From a written document found in the corner-stone of the old building on south St. George Street, demolished, 1893, entitled, 'Proceedings of the Presbyterian Society of St. Augustine, East Florida'"

St. Augustine, 31 October, 1823.

'We, the subscribers, being solemnly impressed with the necessity of having the regular administration of ordinances of the Christian Religion in the town of St. Augustine do hereby agree and pledge ourselves to use our joint efforts for that purpose and the denomination of the Presbyterian Society, and with that design we hereby adopt the following articles:'

The first minutes of the Sessional record reads: 'This Church was organized June 10, 1824, by Rev. Wm. McWhir of the Georgia Presbytery, who by the Providence of God was directed to this destitute and scattered people.' Wm. B. Blair and Elias B. Gould were ordained to the eldership, June 13, 1824. Besides these elders there were three men and eight women who formed this first planting of our Church in East Florida.

The church was incorporated December 3, 1824

The cornerstone of the church was laid January 1, 1825. The document referred to for these facts concludes as follows:

'At this time James Madison of Virginia is President of the United States. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, Secretary of State, Wm. H. Crawford of Georgia, Secretary of the Treasury, John Calhoun of South Carolina, Secretary of War, Samuel S. Southland of New Jersey, Secretary of the Navy, and Wm. West of Virginia, Attorney General of the United States. For the Territory of Florida, Wm. P. Duval is Governor, and George Walter, Secretary. It was taken possession of by the United States agreeable to the cession of Spain on the 10th day of July, 1821.'

Mr. Reynolds continues: 'The Church was again incorporated June 2, 1887, and in 1890, the present church and manse were deeded to the Trustees by Mr. Flagler in exchange for the old church and parsonage on St. George Street. It was then that the name was changed from the 'First Presbyterian Church of St. Augustine'', to "Memorial Presbyterian Church of St. Augustine."

Succeeding the establishment of the St. Augustine church, although records show effort to plant an organization at Mandarin in 1837, there seem to have been no permanent establishments in East Florida for nearly twenty years. Nor is it strange that with sparse population, difficult communications and hostile Indian tribes, there was little migration, few towns were planted, and church work moved slowly. War with the Seminoles lasted until 1842, and in the next year, according to the notes of Mr. Wight, "The Presbytery of Georgia, meeting in Liberty County, on November 23, 1843, thought it expedient to organize a Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, East Florida. Rev. Washington Baird and Rev. A. W. McClure were appointed a committee to organize said church. The meeting was appointed for Saturday and Sunday, the 30th and 31st of December, 1843. Rev. Mr. McClure being

unable to attend, Rev. Mr. Baird proceeded with the business assigned. On Friday evening, the 29th, a meeting of those interested was called at the house of Mr. O. Congar. Five persons, beside the clergymen, were present. They were duly organized into a church, under the title of the Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville."

During the next eighteen years, from 1843 to 1861, while disputes over the war and about the races were violent, nothing in the way of expansion seems to have been accomplished. It was four years after the close of the Civil War before activity was renewed. Here we turn again to the Notes of Mr. Wight: "As has already appeared, the two churches of St. Augustine and Jacksonville, First, were organized by members of the Presbytery of Georgia, and continued in connection with that body until the Civil War. In 1869, work among the Freedmen had so far progressed that the Synod of Atlantic was formed, holding its first session at Charlotte, N. C., October, 1869.

In May, 1870, the following action was taken by the General Assembly in answer to an application for the formation of a new Presbytery in this State:

"That the Assembly hereby constitutes the Presbytery of East Florida, to be composed of Rev. Charles O. Reynolds, of the Presbytery of New York; Rev. William N. Page, of the Central Presbytery of Philadelphia; Rev. Jonathan C. Gibbs, of the Presbytery of Atlantic; and Rev. J. W. C. Pennington, D. D., of the Third Presbytery of New York; that said Presbytery of East Florida be attached to the Synod of Atlantic; that the first meeting of the Presbytery be held at Jacksonville, the third Wednesday in June, 1870, at two o'clock in the afternoon, and be opened by a sermon by Rev. C. O. Reynolds, or in his absence by Rev. W. N. Page." This action was carried out, and all the persons named were present. To this number were added, Prof. Calvin E. Stowe, D. D. (1872); P. H. Fowler, D. D. (1874); and Rev. J. L. Lyons (1875), besides others, who, for a brief time, were connected with the Presbytery.

The General Assembly Minutes of 1873 report for the Presbytery of East Florida, 3 churches with 150 members, and 4 ministers.

The decade 1870-1880 following the organization of the Presbytery of East Florida shows no permanent enlargement, although we read the names of the Mary Esther and New Smyrna churches.

The Presbytery of East Florida has been served by the following Stated Clerks:

Rev. Charles O. Reynolds, 1870-1874; Rev. J. L. Lyons, 1875-1886; Rev. James Mitchell, 1886-1888; Rev. George W. Morrill, 1888-1889; Rev. Joseph K. Wight, 1889-1896; Rev. John N. McGonigle, D. D., 1896-1897; and Rev. Edward G. McKinley 1897-1907.

In April, 1890, Dr. Henry Keigwin, the Synodical Evangelist reported to the Presbyteries of East and South Florida:

"It was my pleasure to report to the Board that notwithstanding the disasters to Florida, from cold waves, and the Yellow Fever scourge, 1889, and the consequent financial depression which has been upon us, our church has made commendable progress. Eight years ago our church had but eight ministers and four churches with only 188 communicants. Now we have on our roll, or soon to be enrolled, 30

ministers, and 38 churches, and 1045 communicants, reported in the minutes of 1889."

This note introduces us to a decade of expansion, 1880-1890. This is the period of immigration to Florida, the growth of towns and communities in the orange belt of the middle portion of the peninsular. It is marked by activity in the establishment of many churches, among them, being; Crescent City, Eustis, Lakeland, Sorrento, Kissimmee, Tarpon Springs, Crystal River, Titusville, and Winter Haven.

Rev. Milton Waldo, D. D., Rev. Joseph K. Wight, and Rev. James H. Potter, D. D., were especially active during the latter part of this period in planting churches. We note also that Auburndale, Green Cove Springs, and San Mateo, were received in this period from the Presbytery of St. Johns' U. S.

Especially mention should be made of the work of Dr. James H. Potter who came to Eustis in the autumn of 1883 seeking health. He was born at Liberty, Penn., October 3, 1828, and graduated at Jefferson College, 1851, and at Western Theological Seminary, 1855. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Dubuque in 1855, and served constantly in the active pastorate until his death, April 11, 1903. His longest pastorates were at Baltimore, Winterset, Ia., and Eustis, Fla.

The memorial book of the Presbytery has this note of his work:

"When in 1886 the Presbytery of South Florida was organized, Dr. Potter was appointed its Moderator and Stated Clerk. As the pioneer of its work, he was at once looked upon as its leader, and that position he retained until his death. He was the father of this Presbytery, laying its foundations, serving it officially all these years with the best of his strength."

Dr. Potter's longest pastorate was at Eustis, Florida. At an undiscovered date the Presbytery of St. Johns' had organized a church at what was then known as Pendryville, afterwards Eustis. This church was transferred in February, 1882, to the Presbytery of East Florida, but was dissolved in April of the following year.

With the influx of population on the opening of the St. Johns' and Lake Eustis Railroad the same year, Eustis became a field of new opportunity to the Church, and when in the Autumn of 1883, Dr. Potter came, seeking health, he at once found opportunity to begin preaching and gathering together a congregation of homeseekers. The record shows that: "The First Presbyterian Church of Eustis, Florida, was organized February 17, 1884, with thirteen members. The first communion service was observed February 24, 1884. During the same year a church building was erected on a lot given by Mr. A. S. Pendry, at the corner of Center Street and Citrus Avenue. The present building was dedicated April 5, 1914. Dr. Potter left his impress for great good on the church and the community in general."

Let it be noted that the Eustis Church has given six ministers to the service of the Kingdom of Christ.

Under the influence of Dr. Potter, Prof. Byron F. Marsh, D. D., established the Eustis Seminary in 1886, which he conducted for about eighteen years with success. On this school as a basis, the local church and the Presbytery established a larger school in September, 1905, known as the Presbyterian College of Florida, with Dr. Lawrence

M. Stevens as President of the Board of Trustees, and Dr. H. A. Goff and Dr. A. H. Jolly as successive Presidents. This institution did good service as a junior college until 1910 when it was discontinued for lack of financial support.

Returning to the decade 1880-1890 it is seen that the progress made necessitated further organization, and we mark the erection of the Presbytery of South Florida at Kississee, April 13, 1886, with the following ministers and churches:

Milton Waldo, D. D., James H. Potter, D. D., J. L. Wilson, Caleb E. Jones, James H. Board, J. H. Cooper.

Eustis, Alexander Memorial, Longwood, Seneca, Sorrento, Kissimmee, Lakeland, Kismet, Ravenswood, Altoona, and Bartow.

The following Stated Clerks served this Presbytery:

James H. Potter, D. D., 1886-1903; Lawrence M. Stevens, D. D., 1903-1904; Francis L. Goff, D. D., 1904-1906; Henry Keigwin, D. D., 1906-1907.

The Presbytery of East Florida had at the time that the Presbytery of South Florida was formed from it, 12 ministers, 17 churches, and 503 members.

The decade 1890-1900 was at first one of expansion, but the churches of the middle section of the State were reduced in membership and some abandoned by the effects of the 'great freeze' 1894-1895. During this stressful period, communities moved southward and prosperity sprang up anew. In this decade were organized the following churches: Altoona, Chuleota, Upsala, Homosassa, Dunellon, Weirsdale, Lake Mary, Mather Paritt, Cocoanut Grove, Miami, Punta Gorda, Arcadia, Boynton, Delray, Fort Lauderdale, Ojus, and Windsor.

From 1889-1905 the Presbyteries of East and South Florida were served by Dr. Henry Keigwin as Synodical Evangelist. He was born in Jeffersonville, Ind., 1836, graduated from Hanover College, 1856, and from Columbia Theological Seminary, 1860, and was ordained by the Presbytery of South Alabama the same year. In his long ministry, until his death, November 17, 1912, he served long pastorates at Fourth Church, Louisville, Ky., and First Church, Orlando, Florida.

A memorial note records: "In the work as Evangelist he continued for seventeen years, traveling far and wide, enduring hardships, and privations, seeking to plant churches, or find supplies for needy fields, in trying conditions following the freeze of 1894-5, giving himself to special labors for discouraged flocks."

Dr. Keigwin in his report to the Presbytery of East Florida, April 7, 1896, says: "Being requested by citizens, I held two week-night services the first week of my arrival (at Cocoanut Grove) and as early as I could made arrangements for a service at Miami, visiting also that new place, and held a service in the dining room of the restaurant, then the only house in the place except the residence of Mrs. Tuttle the owner of the land on which the town is to be built."

Mr. Keigwin then describes a controversy with the Congregationalists, which threatened to delay immediate organization at Miami, but

continues to say: "The way was thus prepared for the organization of our church at Cocconut Grove, and on the 8th of March, nine persons were banded together, as the First Presbyterian Church, forming the southernmost church in the U. S." The organization of the Miami Church was not long delayed, for we find that Dr. Keigwin proceeded to organize with four members on April 1, 1896, of the same year.

He continues in the report to say: "Through the kindness of Brother MacGonigle in raising necessary funds for our enterprise a tent was purchased and furnished for a temporary dwelling at Miami, and another tent for church and reading-room purposes, 20 x 30 has been ordered, and is daily expected. Having a wooden floor and seated with chairs such a tabernacle will be a suitable and comfortable place for our services until more permanent quarters can be erected. It is pleasant to note that Mr. Flagler has donated three most eligible lots in Miami, for church and manse, each 50 x 150 feet, lots which are regarded at present as worth \$1500 each. The interest he has manifested in our church enterprise, and which is becoming generally known in that section, has been a favorable influence among the people, winning friends for our cause." "When the proper time arrives for building, he has intimated also that he will come to our aid in the erection of a house, which shall be suited to expectation of that promising town."

Dr. Keigwin ministered to the struggling church for about a year. In October, 1897, Rev. William Wallace Faris, D. D., came to take charge of the church of nine members. Here we pass to the printed record of Dr. Faris, who tells us: "When I arrived in Miami, I found less than 20 adult Presbyterians on the ground, members and adherents."

Dr. Faris' work in Miami has counted so much for the advance of our work that we stop to review the life of the man who gave his best twenty years of ministry to our work.

Born at Barlow, Ohio, 1843, graduating from the old University of Chicago, 1866, and from what is now McCormick Seminary in 1869, he was ordained by the Presbytery of Schuyler, 1868. His long ministry was filled with service, among his pastorates being Grace Church, Peoria, Ill., and Hazelwood Church, Pittsburg. He also served as Principal of Union Academy, Anna, Ill., and as Editor of the "Occident" of San Francisco.

Continuing to cite Dr. Faris' narrative, we find:

"In 1897 my pastorate (Pittsburg) seemed to have become a conceded and satisfactory permanency, when my health utterly gave away, and I was ordered to seek at once as low a latitude and as low an altitude as possible; so I prepared to come to Miami which had been strongly recommended to me by the late Dr. J. W. MacGonigle, pastor of Memorial Church, St. Augustine, as a very small community just now, but likely to achieve some importance in years to come."

After spending his first two months raising money toward building, securing \$1000 in pledges and the hope of \$800 from the Board of Church Erection, Dr. Faris continues the narrative, "I then notified Mr. Flagler. He wired me to meet him at the Royal Palm on a certain day in early January, 1898, and I did so. He then said, 'I am

having my New York architects start at work here on plans for my hotels in Nassau, I want to save you architects' costs, I will have them draw up plans for you. Confer freely with them. Meanwhile I suggest that you have yourself appointed chairman and treasurer of the congregation's building committee, with responsibility for accounting to the people for any funds not raised on the ground. I think you ought to spend a little more than \$2500, and I want to help you to this. I will start you, when plans are ready, with a deposit of \$1000 to your credit in the bank, and I will follow this with more as needed. You can begin when plans are ready. Then I don't think we'll take that \$800 from the Board. I will cover that also. Further, I will try to see that a Manse is ready for you by the time the church building is up.' At his own charges, Mr. Flagler at once had the lot (south-east corner of Avenue B. and 11th Street) cleared and road paved on both sides of the lot, and down Avenue B to 12th Street. So matters rocked along for three months. Early in April, 1898, I was unexpectedly summoned to meet Mr. Flagler on 12th Street near Short. Some rows of freshly set pine stakes at once looked to me like the ground plan of church and manse, as I had seen these on paper, and I was dumbfounded. After having me shown the outline of stakes, first for church and then for manse, with the connecting arcade, without letting me know as yet what was in his mind, he asked: 'How would you like it, if I should place the church here instead of at 11th and B?' 'Why, Mr. Flagler,' I replied, 'I wouldn't dare to ask for such a thing.' He rejoined, 'I did not tell you to ask for it. I asked, How you would like it, if I should put the buildings here.' 'Oh,' I said, 'there couldn't be anything finer or better.' 'He then turned to his builder, who was present, Mr. Joseph A. McDonald, and quietly said, 'Mac, put the buildings here'. And then added to me, 'I think I will erect them myself; you needn't bother about it.' 'What about the money raised and collected,' I inquired, 'Oh, hold on to that, raise more, if you can.' 'Shall we use that in furnishing?' 'Why, yes,' hesitatingly, 'perhaps so; the money will come in handy for some use.'

In July, 1899, the keys of the manse were handed over to me; and in February, 1900, the keys of the church. He was averse to any dedication or formal opening."

Turning from this graphic story of Dr. Faris, we remind ourselves that Dr. Faris was installed over the Miami church, April 8, 1899, and continued to serve until December, 1901, when ill-health compelled his resignation. On recovering, he returned, two years later, and was again installed as pastor on November 22, 1905. This relation continued until his retirement, April 8, 1919, when he was made pastor-emeritus. This relation was sustained until his death in Miami on March 16, 1925. Dr. Willis O. Garrett, associate pastor, was installed as pastor, October 29, 1919, and continues to serve this important and interesting field.

Turning from Miami, we trace the growth of the organization of the Presbyteries through the State. With the hope of enlarging the scope of activities of the Presbyterian Church in Florida, the Presbytery of West Florida was formed from the Presbytery of South Florida. This organization was effected at Eustis, November 20, 1906, with the following ministers and churches: Lawrence M. Stevens, D. D., Francis L. Goff, D. D., Herman A. Goff, D. D. James T. McLean, D. D., Lindsey O. Sutherland, and John A. Hughes. Eustis, Crystal River,

Sorrento, Dunellon, and Center Hill. Dr. H. A. Goff served as Stated Clerk.

On November, 27, 1906, by act of General Assembly, a Synod of Florida was erected at Eustis, consisting of the Presbyteries of East, West and South Florida; and to this Synod was joined the Presbytery of Havana. But the following year by direction of the General Assembly, the Presbyteries of the newly formed Synod were consolidated into the Presbytery of Florida, and this was joined to the Synod of Alabama. This reorganization was affected at St. Augustine, November 19, 1907. This Presbytery was served by the following Stated Clerks: Rev. Edward G. McKinley, 1907-1918, and Albert W. Pierce, 1918-1921.

The decade from 1910-1920 was one of increasing prosperity and rapid settlement throughout south Florida. Our work rapidly expanded, churches were revived, new ones organized, and foundations laid for steady growth. During this period, or from 1911 to 1921, Rev. Rees W. Edwards served as Pastor Evangelist with great devotion and efficiency. Of this devoted servant of the Cross we record the brief outline of his life. He was born in Cincinnati, September 3, 1856. He was graduated from Wooster College, 1883, and Lane Seminary, 1886, and the latter year was ordained by the Presbytery of Bellefontaine.

He held pastorates in Dayton, O., Canton, O., and served as Pastor Evangelist in the Presbytery of Great Falls, Montana, 1908-1911. He died October 10, 1921. On the following day he had been appointed to convene the new Synod of Florida and to preach the opening sermon. But he was called higher to his heavenly reward. He had requested that Dr. W. B. Witherspoon should take his place at the Synod.

For some time the Board of Home Missions had been regarding the growing work of the Presbytery as giving it the standing of a Synod. The General Assembly of 1921 divided the Presbytery into the present Presbyteries of North, Southeast, and Southwest Florida, and ordered that the Synod meet at the First Presbyterian Church, Miami, Florida, October 11, 1921. Dr. W. B. Witherspoon, Stated Clerk of the Synod of Alabama, preached the sermon, and was elected the first Moderator.

The Presbyteries was organized as follows:

North Florida, Dr. B. B. Bigler, Moderator, A. W. Pierce, Clerk.

Southeast Florida, Rev. J. N. Boyd, Moderator, G. V. Alberton, Clerk.

Southwest Florida, Dr. G. W. Benn, Moderator, E. W. Blew, Clerk.

For six months following the decease of Mr. Edwards, Dr. J. P. Calhoun served the Synod as Superintendent of Home Missions. He organized the church at West Palm Beach, and became its pastor.

In 1922, Rev. John F. Shepherd, D. D., was elected Executive for the Synod. On foundations well laid, and in an era of advancement throughout the state, Dr. Shepherd has organized churches at Orlando, Okeechobee, New Smyrna Beach, Olympia, Osceola, Samsula, Bradenton, Everglades, Polk City, St. Petersburg, and White City.

The following have served as Moderators of Synod:

Dr. William B. Witherspoon, 1921.

Dr. Joseph P. Calhoun, 1922.

Dr. William H. Dresch, 1923.

Dr. Samuel H. Moore, 1924.

Rev. Joseph Newton Boyd, 1925.

Dr. George W. Benn, 1926.

In this cosmopolitan commonwealth of inviting climate, vast in area and rich in resources, central in commercial position, the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., has this long, continued, and worthy story. The Church which is the oldest, largest, and most influential American branch of the family of Reformed Churches, has stood and stands for the extension of the full Gospel for all mankind. It is hoped that this brief sketch of the work in Florida may perpetuate the memory of the self-sacrifice and devotion of those who have contributed to the more than a century of the Evangel in sunny Florida.

ALBERT W. PIERCE, Stated Clerk.

Roll of Churches at any time in Connection with the Work of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. in Florida

The date of organization, where known is given after the name of the church, together with the name of organizer, and number of members first enrolled. There follows list of supplies and pastors as far as ascertainable. Title is given whether of that date or latter. P.—Pastor.

ACRON (Tracy)—April 5, 1892. Dropped the same year. Served by J. H. Board.

ALEXANDER—Memorial—Nothing known of its history.

ALTOONA—Served by J. H. Board.

ARCADIA—November 16, 1898. 24 members. Dismissed to Presbytery of St. Johns' December 28, 1909. Served by C. H. Ferran, D. D., 1898-1903, Henry Keigwin, D. D., 1905-1908.

AURANTIA—1919.

AUBURNDALE—April 8, 1883 by W. G. F. Wallace. Received from Presbytery of St. Johns' April 14, 1886. Built 1885. Served by Milton Waldo, D. D., 1886, S. T. Wilson, 1888-1893, Alfred H. Barr, D. D., 1893, T. Martial, 1895, G. C. Lincoln, 1898, D. A. Dodge, 1899-1904, J. K. Nutting, 1904-1912, H. G. Denison, 1912-1913, Silas Cooke, D. D., P. 1913-1916, David Lander, 1916, B. B. Staats, P. 1917-1920, Arthur Richards, 1921-1923, E. F. Schwab, D. D., P. 1923.

BABSON PARK (Frostproof)—1915. 14 members. Served by W. C. Rommell, 1925, J. S. Axtell, D. D., 1926.

BARTOW—Organized in Presbytery of East Florida and transferred to South Florida April 13, 1886. Dismissed to Presbytery of St. Johns' November 20, 1904. Served by S. G. Hair, 1886-1889, George Case, 1890, E. G. McKinley, 1891-1894, P. E. Brown, 1896-1898, C. D. Williamson, 1899, C. E. Jones, 1901-1902, F. G. Railey, P. 1902-1904.

BOYTON—1899. 8 members. Dr. Henry Keigwin. Disappears from roll from 1905. Revived about 1916. Served by J. T. Thomas, Jr., 1899, J. H. Hammet, 1899, T. X. Orr, D. D., 1900, W. W. Williams, 1903, W. A. Littell, D. D., 1925.

BRADENTON—August, 1924. 234 members. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Served by Duncan Thomas, 1924-1925, R. J. Rutt, P., 1926.

BUFFALO BLUFF—1884. J. S. Beekman. Dissolved 1896. Served by T. C. Potter, 1891-1892, J. K. Wight, 1887-1889.

- CANDLER—March, 1886. G. W. Morrill. 12 members. Dedicated January 1, 1887. Served by P. P. Reese, 1890, A. N. Wylie, 1892, H. I. Stern, 1893-1895, A. Miller, 1896, S. C. Faris, D. D., P., 1897-1900, B. B. Staats, 1913. Since 1913 grouped with Weirsdale.
- CENTER HILL—Enrolled April 24, 1888. Served by E. G. McKinley, 1890, John Mack, 1898, R. A. Ward, 1906-1910, M. E. Gabard, D. D. 1917-1920, Fount Smith, 1920-1926, J. M. Eckard, 1926.
- CHULEOTA—1891. 16 members. Dissolved 1898.
- CORONADO—New Smyrna Beach—1926. Dr. J. F. Shepherd.
- COCOANUT GROVE—March 8, 1896. Enrolled April 6, 1897. 9 members. Dr. Henry Keigwin. Transferred to Presbytery of South Florida, 1897. Served by W. W. Faris, D. D., 1897-1900.
- CRESCENT CITY—March 24, 1883. 11 members. Joseph K. Wight. Enrolled April 10, 1883. Dedicated April 29, 1888. Manse, 1893. Served by J. K. Wight, 1882-1885, James Mitchell, 1886-1888, Mr. Atkins, 1888, W. H. Webb, 1888-1892, T. C. Potter, 1892-1900, D. M. Reeves, D. D., 1900-1907, J. C. Dorward, 1907-1908, E. P. Butler, 1909-1912, J. H. Hunsberger, 1913-1914, R. S. Burris, 1914-1915, W. L. Atkisson, D. D., 1917-1922, A. A. Acton, P., 1923-1926, J. W. Neel, P., 1926.
- CRYSTAL RIVER—1887. Served by S. T. Thompson, D. D., 1889-1890, L. L. Houghawout, 1892-1896, H. M. Goodell, 1897, G. D. Adamson, M. D., 1900-1902, J. T. McLean, D. D., P., 1904-1907, W. T. Morgan, 1909-1910, J. A. Logan, 1911, W. J. Frost, Ph. D., 1913-1914, R. H. Anthony, 1917-1919, W. B. Witherspoon, D. D., 1921-1924, W. H. Shaw, 1925-1926, T. Alexander, P., 1926.
- DELRAY—1899. Dr. H. Keigwin. Served by J. T. Thomas, Jr., 1899, J. H. Hammet, 1899, T. X. Orr, D. D., 1900. Disappears from roll 1905. Revived by Dr. J. F. Shepherd about 1925. Served by W. A. Littell, D. D., 1925.
- DUNELLON—1893. 9 members. Transferred to Presbytery of St. Johns' 1909. Served by L. L. Houghawout, 1893-1896, H. M. Goodell, 1897, G. D. Adamson, M. D., 1900-1902.
- EUSTIS—Was organized by the Presbytery of St. Johns' at an undiscovered date and was received by the Presbytery of East Florida in 1882. Dissolved April 10, 1883. Organized February 17, 1884. 13 members. Dr. J. H. Potter. Dedicated January 7, 1885. New Church dedicated April 5, 1914. Served by J. H. Potter, D. D., P., 1884-1903, F. L. Goff, D. D., P., 1904-1907, A. H. Jolly, D. D., 1907-1910, W. S. P. Cochran, D. D., P., 1910-1919, Samuel H. Moore, D. D., P., 1919-.
- EVERGLADES—1926. Dr. J. F. Shepherd.
- FORT LAUDERDALE—April 4, 1899. 8 members. Dr. H. Keigwin. Disappears from roll after 1905. Reappears in 1912. Served by J. T. Thomas, Jr., 1899, J. H. Hammet, 1899, T. X. Orr, D. D., 1900, W. W. Williams, 1903, T. Alexander, 1919, H. S. Dunning, 1919-1923, W. L. Atkisson, D. D., P., 1923-1926, L. F. Goodwin, D. D., 1926-.

- FORT MYERS—1901. 7 members. Dr. H. Keigwin. Reorganized 1911. Served by N. L. New, 1911, C. N. Thomas, 1911, G. W. Rexford, 1912-1918, A. P. Vaughn, D. D., 1919, W. J. Cody, D. D., 1920, G. W. Benn, D. D., 1921-1923, J. A. Henry, D. D., P., 1924-.
- FORT PIERCE—First—May 9, 1909. 32 members. Dr. W. W. Faris. Served by H. W. McCombs, P., 1909-1916, E. P. Thompson, D. D., P., 1916-.
- FORT PIERCE—Dutton Memorial—May 16, 1924. 33 members. Dr. J. F. Shepherd, H. W. McCombs. Served by H. W. McCombs, 1924-.
- GLENWOOD—October, 1886. 8 members. J. W. Sheaver. Reorganized March, 1894. 20 members. Under Presbytery of St. Johns'. Transferred to Presbytery of South Florida, 1895. Manse and twenty-seven acres given by I. V. Waterman, 1908. Served by W. H. Babbitt, 18....., S. C. Faris, D. D., 1896, J. W. West, 1899-1907, H. Keigwin, D. D., 1909-1913, H. W. Thompson, 1913-1917, C. A. Duncan, D. D., 1919, W. H. Milroy, Ph. D., 1920-1923, L. A. Worley, 1924-1925, W. A. Vroman, 1926-.
- GOTHA—November 22, 1912. 25 members. R. W. Edwards. Dissolved, 1921.
- GREEN COVE SPRINGS—April 8, 1884, under Presbytery of St. Johns'. Transferred to Presbytery of East Florida, May 1, 1888. Dedicated 1898. Served by J. H. Myers, D. D., 1884-1885, Willis Lord, D. D., 1886-1887, J. K. Wight, 1888-1910, A. W. Pierce, P., 1912-.
- GULFPORT—1917. Served by J. C. Ely, D. D., 1919, J. T. McLean, D. D., 1920-.
- HOMELAND—1887. Milton Waldo, D. D. Served by S. T. Thompson, D. D., 1890. Dropped, 1898.
- HAWTHORNE—April 25, 1885. 9 members. J. Mitchell. Dismissed to Presbytery of Suwannee, October 21, 1924. Served by J. Mitchell, 1885-1886, J. L. Lyons, 1886-1888, H. I. Stern, 1895, D. M. Freeland, 1891-1893, E. G. McKinley, 1895-1899, J. C. Gourley, 1901-1903, B. B. Staats, 1913-1918.
- HIGLEY—November, 1886.
- HOMOSSASSA—May 5, 1892. Dissolved May 4, 1895. Served by L. L. Houghawout, 1892-1895.
- JACKSONVILLE—First—December 29, 1843. 5 members. Washington Baird. Transferred to Presbytery of Suwannee, April 13, 1900. Served by A. B. Burke, 1844, A. W. Sproul, 1853, Donald Fraser, 1856-1860, W. N. Page, M. L. P. Hill, J. W. Coleman, A. H. Carrier, W. K. Tully, 1878-1886, W. E. Roe, L. D. Paine, S. E. Webster, D. D., E. W. Florence, P., 1897-1898.
- KISMET—No record.

- KISSIMMEE—January 3, 1886. 10 members. Served by C. E. Jones, 1884-1888, C. C. Wallace, 1889, L. M. Stevens, D. D., 1890-1894, H. M. Goodell, 1894, D. A. Dodge, 1895-1899, F. G. Railey, 1900-1903, C. E. Jones, 1905-1907, S. S. Snyder, 1910-1913, W. B. Witherspoon, D. D., P., 1913-1919, W. H. Dresch, D. D., 1920-1924, E. E. Van Ness, P., 1926-1927.
- LAKE ALFRED (Fargo)—May 16, 1912. 25 members. R. W. Edwards. Served by H. G. Denison, 1912-1914, B. B. Staats, P., 1917-1920, Arthur Richards, 1920-1924, B. M. Swan, 1924-1925, S. M. Engle, 1925-.
- LAKELAND—1885? Dismissed to St. Johns', April 24, 1907. Served by S. T. Thompson, D. D., P., 1891-1892, C. E. Jones, 1893-1901, F. G. Railey, 1901-1903.
- LAKE MARY—May 4, 1895. Served by D. A. Dodge, 1895-1897, Chas. Campbell, 1897, J. F. Sundell, 1907-1912, J. S. Clark, 1919-1925, J. M. Thompson, 1926-.
- LAKE WORTH—1917? Served by W. B. Witherspoon, D. D., 1920, J. T. W. Stewart, 1923-1926, C. E. Carmen, 1926-.
- LONGWOOD—1885? Dissolved November 9, 1886.
- LYNN HAVEN—January 19, 1913. 22 members. R. W. Edwards. Served by Ira Miller, 1916-1923, W. M. Covert, 1923-1926, W. T. Hall, Ph. D., P., 1926-.
- MIAMI—First—April 1, 1896. 4 members. H. Keigwin, D. D. Transferred from Presbytery of South Florida to East Florida, April 6, 1897. Mr. Henry M. Flagler gave the manse, July, 1899, and the Church, February, 1900. Served by H. Keigwin, D. D., 1896-1897, William Wallace Faris, D. D., P., 1897-1901, 1905-1919, Willis O. Garrett, D. D., P., 1919-.
- MIAMI—Second—1927. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Served by W. Anderson.
- MAYTOWN—June 3, 1917. 9 members. Dr. W. B. Witherspoon.
- MOORE HAVEN—May 16, 1917. 13 members. R. W. Edwards. Served by Dr. J. M. Anderson, 1917-1918. Dissolved December 20, 1919.
- NEW SYMRNA—1875? No record.
- OJUS—April, 1899. Dissolved November, 1905. Served by J. T. Thomas, Jr., 1899, J. H. Hammet, 1899, T. X. Orr, D. D., 1900, W. W. Williams, 1903.
- OKEECHOBEE—June 22, 1924. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Served by J. P. Hale, D. D., 1924-1926.
- OLYMPIA—1926. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Served by H. N. Campbell, D. D., 1926-.
- ORLANDO—Westminster—October 26, 1924. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Served by Rea W. Martin, P., 1924.
- ORANGE BEND—April 29, 1888. Dropped 1901. Served by E. G. McKinley, 1890-1891, W. S. Stull, 1895.

OSCEOLA—1925. Dr. J. F. Shepherd.

PAOLA—April 10, 1883. Milton Waldo, D. D. Served by P. G. Schelley, P., 1887-1888, I. A. Pearce, 1890-1892, D. A. Dodge, 1895-1897, C. Campbell, 1897, C. E. Jones, 1903-1905, Mr. Waldron, 1910, J. S. Clark, 1920-1925.

PITTMAN (Ravenswood)—1884. J. H. Hair. No record.

PINELLAS PARK—1912? Served by W. A. Monks, 1912, J. T. McLean, D. D.

POLK CITY—1926. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Served by S. M. Engle, 1926-.

PUNTA GORDA—April 14, 1896. Served by C. H. Ferran, D. D., 1898-1903, H. Broad, 1904-1905, H. Keigwin, D. D., 1905-1908, J. Cocks, 1909-1910, J. H. Albert, D. D., 1913-1918, J. H. Sutherland, 1920-1923, F. J. Kerns, 1923-1924, A. Linn, 1924-1925, W. S. Bingham, 1925-.

ROCKLEDGE—May 25, 1884. 5 members. H. Keigwin, D. D. Transferred from Presbytery of St. Johns' to East Florida, November, 1902. Reorganized 1897. Served by N. J. M. Bogert, 1903, W. E. Hall, 1904, A. S. Badger, D. D., 1908, G. Norcross, 1909, A. S. Badger, D. D., 1913, K. P. Ketcham, D. D., 1914-1917, J. N. Boyd, 1918-1924, C. E. Bovard, D. D., 1924-.

RUSKIN—June 8, 1913. 9 members. R. W. Edwards. No record.

SAMSULA—July 29, 1924. Dr. J. F. Shepherd.

ST. AUGUSTINE—Memorial—Was organized as the First Presbyterian Church, June 10, 1924, with thirteen members by Rev. W. McWhir of the Presbytery of Georgia.

The present church building was erected in 1890 by Henry M. Flagler in loving remembrance of his daughter, Jennie Louise Benedict, who died March 25, 1889. The name of the church was then changed to "The Memorial Presbyterian Church."

ROLL OF MINISTERS

Rev. W. McWhir*	June, 1824—July, 1824
Rev. R. Bascom*	Aug., 1824—Nov., 1824
Rev. Horace Pratt*	July, 1826—Nov., 1826
Rev. Ebenezer Snowden†	1826—1828
Rev. A. Aikman*	Feb., 1830—July, 1830
Rev. Handell Nott*	Dec., 1830—May, 1831
Rev. Ebenezer Snowden†	1831—1834
Temporary Supplies	1835—1837
Rev. Robert W. Dunlap†	1837—1840
Rev. F. Y. Vail*	Dec., 1840—April, 1841
Rev. Henry Axtell*	Jan., 1842—1842
Rev. A. W. McClure†	1842—1845
Rev. R. K. Sewell†	1845—1848
Temporary Supplies	1849
Rev. T. F. Montgomery*	Jan., 1850
Temporary Supplies	1850—1852
Rev. Joseph H. Myers†	1853—1856
Temporary Supplies	1857

Rev. Edward P. Crane†	1858—1859
Temporary Supplies	1860—1864
Rev. C. O. Reynolds, Pastor	1865—1876
Rev. Daniel March†	1877—1878
Rev. T. P. Hay*	May, 1878—Sept., 1878
Rev. W. H. Taylor, Pastor	1879—1883
Rev. Milton Waldo, D. D., Pastor	1883—1884
Rev. Samuel T. Wilson, D. D.	1885—1886
Rev. Edwin K. Mitchell, D. D., Pastor	1886—1891
Rev. Jno. N. McGonigle, D. D., Pastor	1893—1902
Rev. James Coffin Stout, D. D., Pastor	1902—1909
Rev. Alfred S. Badger, D. D.†	1909—1913
Rev. Barton B. Bigler, D. D., Pastor	1913—

* Temporary Supply. † Stated Supply.

ST. CLOUD—April 29, 1910. 31 members. J. K. Nutting, S. S. Snyder. Dedicated February 5, 1911. Served by W. H. Hackett, P., 1912-1916, J. T. W. Stewart, P., 1917-1921, H. C. Calhoun, 1922-1923, J. A. Callan, P., 1924-1927.

ST. PETERSBURG—Westminister—April, 1924. 53 members. Dr. J. F. Shepherd. Geo. W. Benn, D. D., P., 1924-.

SAN MATEO—1883. Under Presbytery of St. Johns'. Transferred to Presbytery of East Florida, January, 1885. Dedicated January 26, 1885. Served by A. R. MacAubray, D. D., 1885-1891, F. H. Marling, 1892, Wilson Phraner, D. D., 1893-1894, Ralston Smith, D. D., 1895, J. W. Eaton, D. D., 1896, A. Miller, 1903, J. S. Axtell, D. D., 1919-1921, D. Morrison, D. D., 1922-1924, W. W. Weller, D. D., 1925-1927.

SATSUMA—October, 1884. J. S. Beekman. Reorganized 1887. 13 members. J. K. Wight. Dissolved 1898. Served by J. K. Wight, 1887-1889, S. C. Faris, D. D., P., 1896-1898.

SENECA—1885? Served by C. M. Livingston, 1886, P. P. Reese, 1889. Dissolved 1899.

SORRENTO—1885? Served by C. M. Livingston, 1886, P. P. Reese, 1889, G. S. Rice, 1890, L. M. Stevens, D. D., P., 1893-1905, L. O. Sutherland, 1905-1912, C. H. Foland, 1913-1921, J. S. Clark, 1920-1925, A. G. Bowering, 1925, J. M. Thompson, 1926.

ST. ANDREWS' BAY—1886. 16 members. A. W. Sproul. Transferred to the Presbytery of Florida, U. S., 1897. Served by E. H. Post, 1886-1890.

STARKE—December 15, 1884. 23 members. A. W. Sproul, R. B. Mattice. Built 1886, Manse 1916. Served by R. B. Mattice, 1884-1890, S. C. Faris, D. D., 1893-1896, G. W. Snodgrass, 1896-1897, W. M. Covert, 1897, J. A. Hughes, 1898-1899, W. C. Lindsey, D. D., 1899-1901, R. H. Morris, 1901, J. C. Gourley, 1901-1903, H. Broad, 1905, B. B. Staats, P., 1913, T. J. Hedges, 1923-1924, H. W. Tucker, D. D., P., 1925-.

TARPON SPRINGS—1886. Served by S. T. Wilson, 1887, D. D. Kidd, 1890, S. T. Thompson, D. D., 1894-1900, A. J. Compton, M. D., 1909-1914, A. Linn, P., 1914-1916, W. S. Milne, 1918-1919, C. H. Abernethy, 1920, E. W. Blew, 1921-1923, W. J. Zuck, D. D., 1923-1925, W. G. Rees, P., 1925-.

TITUSVILLE—April 8, 1887. J. H. Potter, D. D. Reenrolled April 16, 1907. Served by John Foy, 1891-1894, W. T. Veile, 1895, H. M. Goodell, 1895-1896, Paul Heiligman, 1897, J. A. Hughes, 1899, N. J. M. Bogert, 1903, M. E. Koonce, Ph. D., 1915, N. W. Chamberlain, 1917-1918, W. C. Rommell, 1919, A. L. Medcalf, P., 1920-1922, R. K. Porter, D. D., P., 1924-.

TRACY—1891. J. H. Board. No record.

UPSALA—1891. J. F. Sundell. Dissolved 1918. Served by J. F. Sundell, 1891-1906.

WALDO—August 7, 1883. 8 members. J. L. Lyons. Dissolved 1924. Served by D. N. Freeland, 1895, E. G. McKinley, 1896, W. M. Covert, 1897, J. A. Hughes, 1898-1899, W. C. Lindsey, D. D., 1899, R. N. Morris, 1901, J. C. Gourley, 1901-1903, H. Broad, 1905.

WAVERLY—October, 1914. 19 members. Served by E. E. Van Ness, 1925.

WEIRSDALE (South Lake Weir)—Served by H. I. Stern, 1893, A. Miller, 1896, S. C. Faris, D. D., 1897-1899, E. G. McKinley, 1900-1911, G. V. Albertson, 1911-1912, J. A. Logan, 1912-1916, H. C. Nation, 1917, M. E. Gabard, D. D., 1918-1919, G. E. Albright, 1921-1924, W. Baldwin, Ph. D., 1925-1926, H. C. Calhoun, P., 1927-.

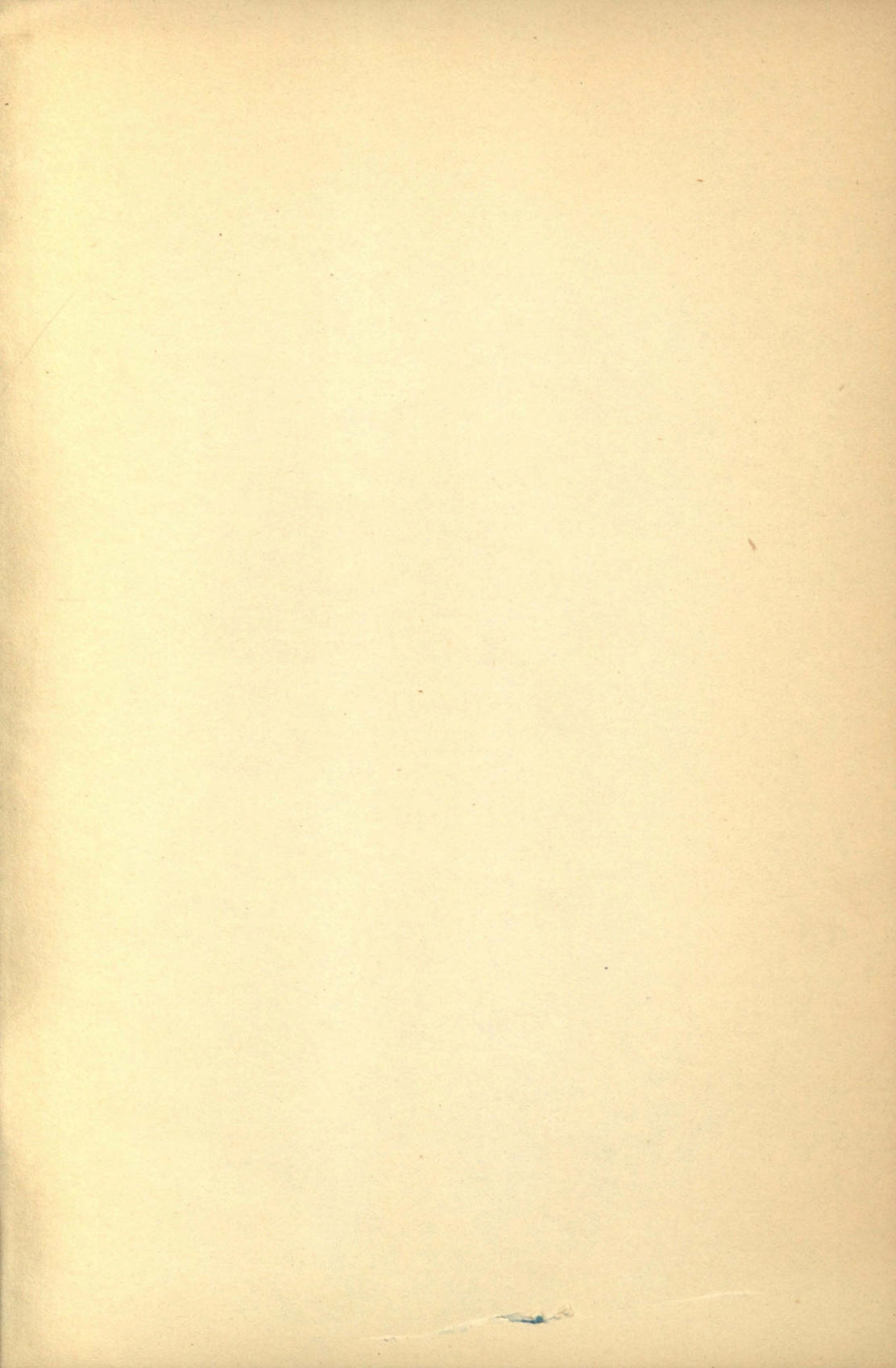
WEST PALM BEACH—First—March 12, 1922. J. P. Calhoun, D. D.

WINDSOR—1898. E. G. McKinley. Dissolved 1901.

WINTER HAVEN—April 8, 1887. Milton Waldo, D. D. Built 1895. Served by S. T. Wilson, D. D., 1888-1893, Alfred H. Barr, D. D., 1894, C. E. Jones, 1898, D. A. Dodge, 1899-1904, E. G. McLean, D. D., P., 1909-1916, W. E. Bryce, D. D., 1917, J. P. Calhoun, D. D., P., 1917-1920, L. M. Bicknell, P., 1920-1924, T. B. Haynie, P., 1925-.

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NOTE:—Three Churches for Negroes now in Knox Presbytery were organized in the bounds of the Florida work, Jacksonville, 3rd. Palatka, Mt. Vernon, and St. Augustine, Mather-Perut.



HALL BROS. PRINT-JAX